

**South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office**

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PHOTO NEWS RELEASE:

Guard clears the way during fall blizzard

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota National Guard helped clear the way along Interstate 90 Friday, Nov. 7, in support of state emergency management agencies in the wake of the fall blizzard that hit western South Dakota.

Rapid City's Task Force 109 dispatched two snow blowers with crews to assist in the clearing of Interstate 90 from Rapid City westward toward Sturgis. As of 7:30 pm (MST), snow removal efforts by the Department of Transportation, along with the Guard, resulted in the interstate completely opening up after almost two days of being closed.

Yesterday, two snow blowers with crews from the Guard's Task Force 114 from Sioux Falls were dispatched to support snow removal west along Interstate 90 toward Rapid City. Task Force 196, also from Sioux Falls, supported TF114 in providing transport of the snow blowers and two 10-ton recovery wreckers with crews to support the clearing of the interstate.

Last night, a National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and crew successfully conducted a medical evacuation of four civilians, three of which require dialysis, from Wanblee, S.D., to the Pine Ridge Hospital.

Currently, about 30 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard are conducting operations in support of state emergencies management agencies. South Dakota has more than 4,200 Guard members available to respond to state emergencies, natural disasters and homeland defense.

Army and Air National Guard leaders across the state continue to prepare Soldiers and Airmen to respond to five possible missions that the Guard may receive from the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management over the next few days. Guard officials are preparing to respond to search and rescue missions, snow removal support, power restoration support, power generator equipment requests, and aerial observation missions using National Guard rotary and fixed-wing aircraft.

National Guard support is based on the needs and requirements vetted through the Office of Emergency Management, which is the lead agency for all state emergency response.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 431-8753 or e-mail orson.ward@us.army.mil.

High resolution photos are available on request.

Photo Cut Lines:



081107-A-5701M-001: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers move snow with a snow blower Friday, Nov. 7, 2008, along Interstate 90 after the first blizzard of the season caused massive drifting over major roadways throughout western South Dakota. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081107-A-5701M-001.jpg>



081107-A-5701M-002: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers move snow with a snow blower Friday, Nov. 7, 2008, along Interstate 90 after the first blizzard of the season caused massive drifting over major roadways throughout western South Dakota. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081107-A-5701M-002.jpg>



081107-A-5701M-003: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers move snow with a snow blower Friday, Nov. 7, 2008, along Interstate 90 after the first blizzard of the season caused massive drifting over major roadways throughout western South Dakota. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081107-A-5701M-003.jpg>



081107-A-5701M-004: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers move snow with a snow blower Friday, Nov. 7, 2008, along Interstate 90 after the first blizzard of the season caused massive drifting over major roadways throughout western South Dakota. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081107-A-5701M-004.jpg>



081107-A-5701M-005: Specialist Justin Kolbeck, of Rapid City and a member of the 155th Engineer Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, moves snow with a snow blower along Interstate 90 on Friday, Nov. 8, 2008, after the first blizzard of the season caused massive drifting over major roadways throughout western South Dakota. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081107-A-5701M-005.jpg>



081107-A-5701M-006: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers move snow with a snow blower Friday, Nov. 7, 2008, along Interstate 90 after the first blizzard of the season caused massive drifting over major roadways throughout western South Dakota. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081107-A-5701M-006.jpg>



081107-A-5701M-007: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers move snow with a snow blower Friday, Nov. 7, 2008, along Interstate 90 after the first blizzard of the season caused massive drifting over major roadways throughout western South Dakota. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081107-A-5701M-007.jpg>



081107-A-5701M-008: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers move snow with a snow blower Friday, Nov. 7, 2008, along Interstate 90 after the first blizzard of the season caused massive drifting over major roadways throughout western South Dakota. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081107-A-5701M-008.jpg>



081107-A-5701M-009: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers move snow with a snow blower Friday, Nov. 7, 2008, along Interstate 90 after the first blizzard of the season caused massive drifting over major roadways throughout western South Dakota. (Army photo by 1st Sgt. Donald Matthews) (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081107-A-5701M-009.jpg>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753.

NOTE 1: Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

Currently, more than 30 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia and Europe. More than 4,200 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.